

MANE-VU Approach to the Development of “Consulting Groups”

On November 1, representatives from each RPO and the FLMs began a dialogue aimed at identifying groups of Class I areas that might serve to focus consultations for purposes of the regional haze rule. While it appears that consultations will be conducted state-to-state, the RPO representatives agreed that there may be a role for the RPO staff in identifying Class I areas with common visibility issues where a joint consultation process might be more efficient. At this point, the focus of the RPO efforts is to help identify common Class I “consulting groups” and leave it to the states involved in any future joint consultation process to discuss details regarding the nature and extent of state contributions to a common Class I group. Another role that the RPOs may play in the process is to assist with the scheduling of consultations so as to ensure that RPO-developed technical products would be ready and available to facilitate state discussions.

The Class I states within the MANE-VU RPO have considered the question of how best to group common Class I areas from the perspective of forming consulting groups. After reviewing monitoring and modeling data related to the sources of visibility impairment for each Class I site, they have proposed an approach that would create a single consulting group that encompasses all MANE-VU Class I sites. The “MANE-VU consulting group” would consist of the Acadia National Park, Maine; Brigantine Wilderness (within the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge), New Jersey; Great Gulf Wilderness, New Hampshire; Lye Brook Wilderness, Vermont; Moosehorn Wilderness (within the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge), Maine; Presidential Range – Dry River Wilderness, New Hampshire; and Roosevelt Campobello International Park, New Brunswick.

The Class I states of MANE-VU recognize some differences between the Brigantine Wilderness and the northern tier of Class I sites in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. However, when viewed from the perspective of contributions to sulfate pollution – which is still the dominant form of visibility impairment experienced on the twenty percent worst visibility days at all MANE-VU sites – the group found more similarities than differences and felt that a single consulting group representing all MANE-VU sites offered the best opportunity to engage contributing states in a meaningful consultation process.

MANE-VU, therefore, proposes the addition of the MANE-VU consulting group to those already suggested by the Mid-West RPO in their October 19 memorandum. The revised “Table 1” on the next page reflects the proposed composition of the MANE-VU consulting group in a manner similar to that of the October 19 memo for three other proposed consulting groups. The MANE-VU Class I states are planning to contact those states listed in the proposed consulting group shortly to initiate the consultation process.

RPO	State	MI/MN (BOWA, VOYA, ISRO, SEN)	AR/MO/KY (UPBU, MINGO, HG, MACA)	VA/WV (DOSO, SHEN, JRIV)	MANE-VU (ACAD, MOOS, GRGU, LYBR, BRIG)
MANE-VU	Connecticut				X
	Delaware				X
	Maine				X
	Maryland			X	X
	Massachusetts				X
	New Hampshire				X
	New Jersey				X
	New York				X
	Pennsylvania			X	X
	Rhode Island				X
Vermont				X	
VISTAS	Alabama				
	Florida				
	Georgia				X
	Kentucky		X		X
	Mississippi				
	North Carolina				X
	South Carolina				X
	Tennessee		X		X
	Virginia			X	X
	West Virginia			X	X
MRPO	Illinois	X	X		X
	Indiana	?	X		X
	Michigan	X			X
	Ohio			X	X
	Wisconsin	X			
CENRAP	Arkansas		X		
	Iowa	X			
	Kansas				
	Louisiana				
	Minnesota	X			
	Missouri	?	X		
	Nebraska				
	Oklahoma				
Texas					
WRAP	N. Dakota	X			
	S. Dakota				
	Other Western States				
Canada	Manitoba				
	New Brunswick				X
	Ontario	X			X
	Quebec				X
	Other Provinces				